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Violent Leftists Aim to Terrorize Olympic Games

Intelligence reports warn that the radical Puerto Rican revolutionary group known by the dread letters FALN has set up mobile camps across the Mexican border to train terrorists for attacks on the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Ominously, the reports also predict that the FALN's violent leader, William Morales, will soon be released from a Mexican prison and delivered into the custody of leftist authorities in the Tijuana area. That's as close to Los Angeles as he could get to set up terrorist head-quarters without crossing into U.S. jurisdiction.

The Soviet grievances against the Los Angeles Olympics, meanwhile, will encourage the terrorists to strike all the harder, U.S. intelligence sources fear. The FALN is led by hard-line Marxists who ape the Moscow line and tend, in the way of young revolutionaries, to translate propaganda into violence.

This group is regarded by the FBI as the No. 1 terrorist threat to the United States, and Morales is this

nation's most wanted terrorist. According to an intelligence document, "the FALN has been responsible for over 150 terrorist bombings in the U.S. since its founding in 1973 [It] has developed an extensive terrorist network stretching across the U.S. and into Mexico. Morales is also developing links with insurgent movements in Central America."

My associate Jon Lee Anderson spent most of a day with Morales in the maximum security wing of Reclusorio Norte, a model prison on the outskirts of Mexico City.

Morales is a determined revolutionary and Marxist zealot driven at once by idealism and hatred, a would-be usurper who justifies himself as the avenger of terrible wrongs. Yet he's the mere boss of a small gang who seeks to stir up a mass following.

"I am a member of a revolutionary movement which is at war with the United States government," he told my reporter.

Morales, 34, a slim man with a coffee-colored complexion, is shocking to look at. His mouth, chin and both hands were blown off in a bomb explosion at an FALN bomb factory in New York in 1978. He has a single digit that passes for a finger on each stump. It's all he needs, apparently, to feed himself and attend to his basic needs.

With these stumps, he escaped

from the fourth floor of a New York prison hospital.

Morales' dramatic escape occurred on May 21, 1979. He disappeared into the underground and, according to an intelligence report, "began operating between Mexico and the U.S." Police located his wife, Dylcia Pagan Morales, in Chicago and traced her incoming calls from Mexico.

The FBI tipped off the Mexican authorities that Morales was plotting to bomb a U.S.-Mexican legislative conference. This led to a shootout in the city of Puebla on May 28, 1983. Morales was captured after his companion fell dead in a hail of bullets. A police officer also died in the exchange.

Morales was sentenced to 89 years in prison, which would keep him out of circulation for a long time. But Anderson found Morales confident that he would soon be freed. Telegraphed my reporter: "U.S. lawmen, who want Morales extradited, might do well to worry that he could slip from their clutches in Mexico."

Not long after I received this report, my associate Donald Goldberg learned from intelligence reports that, indeed, Morales is expected to be handed over to leftist authorities in Tijuana. They are expected to give him free rein to direct the terrorist training in clandestine camps in northern Mexico.